

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/685,718

Applicant(s)

ABRAMOV, YURI

Examiner

Thomas M. Dougherty

Art Unit

2834

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Thomas M. Dougherty.

(3) _____.

(2) Ed Langer.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 16 October 2002.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☒ Yes e) ☐ No.
If Yes, brief description: proposed amendment.

Claim(s) discussed: 31.

Identification of prior art discussed: Yatsuda.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: _____.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

i) ☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview(if box is checked).

Unless the paragraph above has been checked, THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

THOMAS M. DOUGHERTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100
2834

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Thomas M. Dougherty
Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments,

It was agreed that the following proposed claim language overcomes the extant rejection: "A weighted SAW interdigital transducer (IDT) having at least two internal electrode fingers shaped and arranged with a predetermined periodicity, each of said fingers having a shape defining a ratio between its width and its arrangement-periodicity, and also defining variable spacing between each of said fingers, such that said ratio varies substantially along each of said fingers, said variable ratio inducing SAW velocity dispersion along said fingers, thereby providing a weighting mechanism to control weighting coefficients for achieving desired frequency characteristics of the IDT.

Applicant's new independent claim (Sep.23, 2002)

31. A weighted SAW inter-digital transducer (IDT) having at least two **internal** electrode fingers shaped and arranged with a predetermined periodicity, each of said fingers ^{having a slope} defining a ratio between its width and its **arrangement-periodicity**, **such that said ratio varies substantially** along each of said fingers, said **variable** ratio inducing SAW velocity dispersion along said fingers, thereby providing a weighting mechanism to control weighting coefficients for achieving desired frequency characteristics of the IDT.

Table 1. Regarding the independent claim 4(rejected), 24(rejected), 31 (new).

Row No	Prior Arts (including Yatsuda's Disclosure)	Applicant's Disclosure
1	<p><u>Tapered IDT</u></p> <p>The whole IDT and the fingers are similarly tapered to achieve a ratio $w(y)/p(y) = \text{Constant}$, thereby providing a substantial absence of SAW velocity dispersion, where $w(y)$ is the finger's width along their length and $p(y)$ is the periodicity arrangement of the fingers.</p>	<p><u>IDT Weighted By Novel Mechanism</u></p> <p>A variable ratio, for example in Applicant's Fig. 3, results the finger shapes substantially different from the shape of the overall IDT. The fingers are trapezoidal, while the IDT is substantially rectangular.</p>
2	<p><u>Tapering As A Weighting Mechanism</u></p> <p>Yatsuda illustrates periodicity of fingers grating in Fig. 2, where the overall IDT is tapered. The periodicity is changed from P_H to P_L, i.e. from high periodicity to low periodicity.</p> <p>A periodicity tapering causes that the voltages between fingers are distributed with different periodicity from top to bottom of the "fan-type" IDT.</p> <p>A tapered IDT provides weighting, because distribution of voltages between fingers varies in periodicity from top to bottom.</p>	<p><u>Velocity Dispersion As A Weighting Mechanism</u></p> <p>The disclosed SAW IDT is weighted by the novel mechanism of SAW velocity dispersion.</p> <p>When SAW velocity is dispersed along internal fingers, we get the effect of different time-delay of SAW beams, propagating in different SAW tracks for each y.</p> <p>The time-delay distribution causes a phase weighting of the SAW tracks distributed along the fingers. The distributed phase weighting is utilized for weighting coefficients definition.</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>The frequency characteristic of a "fan-type" IDT (Applicant's Fig. 2b) having tapered fingers is calculated by:</p> $A_{25}(\omega) = E(\omega) \sum_{n=1}^N p_n \int_{-L/2}^{+L/2} \exp(-j(\kappa_0) x_n(y)) dy \quad (3)$ <p>where</p> <p>p_n is a polarity of the n^{th} finger: $p_n = (-1)$, if n^{th} finger is grounded, and $p_n = (+1)$, if n^{th} finger is hot;</p> <p>κ_0 is a SAW wave number, $\kappa_0 = \omega/V$, V is a constant SAW velocity for each y, because of the constant ratio $w(y)/p(y)$;</p> <p>$x_n(y)$ is the X-coordinate of n^{th} finger's center.</p> <p>The weighting is achieved by the varying of the fingers positions via Y-coordinate.</p> <p>The SAW velocity dispersion effect is NOT a degree of freedom for weighting for such an IDT.</p> <p>The same words are relevant to the equivalent prior art fan-type/tapered IDT, shown in Fig. 2 by Yatsuda.</p>	<p>The frequency characteristic of the IDT having trapezoidal fingers is:</p> $A_{30}(\omega) = E(\omega) \sum_{n=1}^N p_n I_n \exp(-j\kappa_0 x_n) \quad (4a)$ <p>where the weighting coefficients I_n vary with finger number n, ONLY if the SAW velocity dispersion effect is present.</p> <p>Now, the SAW wave number is dispersed along Y-coordinate: $\kappa_0 + \kappa(y)$, and the weighting coefficients I_n are calculated via the dispersion $\kappa(y)$.</p> <p>Control of the values I_n due to varying the fingers' shapes, which substantially different from the shape of the overall IDT, is the novel degree of freedom, and is the essence of the disclosure.</p> <p>An example calculation of frequency response for an IDT having fingers, shaped in form of curled brackets, is illustrated in Applicant's Fig. 6a (64).</p>
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In order to help find important key words such as "periodicity", "arrangement", "shaped", "configured", etc. in the disclosure description, the following is included:

(a) Page 8, lines 21-30

In the approach of the variational principle, the SAW velocity is expressed with two terms....The second term is defined by the mechanical load, i.e. by densities and constants both of the piezoelectric substrate and the electrode finger material, as well as **periodicity** of the fingers and their geometry: thickness and width. Both of the terms vary smoothly with an electrode finger's width. Calculations show that if an electrode finger's width is in the range from 25% to 60% of the distance between the adjacent finger's centers, both of the terms are approximately proportional to the electrode fingers width. So if the electrode fingers change in width along their length, the SAW velocity dispersion is expected to occur in the same direction.

(b) Page 11, lines 23-25

The SAW velocity dispersion depends on both electrical and mechanical load, i.e., it depends on the material both of the piezoelectric substrate and the electrode fingers and depends on the thickness, **configuration**, polarity and **arrangement** of the electrode fingers.

(c) Page 15, lines 24-27

SAW velocity dispersion causes frequency response widening for an inter-digital transducer with electrode fingers which change in width along their length, in contrast to a transducer with conventional electrode fingers, i.e. wherein the fingers are either of uniform width along their length or of width **configured** in alignment with tapering of the transducer.

(d) Page 24 -- Claim 1

A transducer for surface acoustic waves, said transducer comprising a plurality of interdigitized electrode fingers, including at least one interdigitized electrode finger which is provided with **shape** that changes in width along said finger's length, provided that where a transducer finger is tapered, said electrode finger width is not uniformly changed to maintain alignment with tapering of the transducer,...

(e) Page 24 -- Claim 3

A transducer according to claim 1, wherein said electrode fingers are **arranged** without regard to uniformity of **periodicity** along the lengths of electrode fingers.

(f) Page 24 -- Claim 4

A transducer according to claim 1, wherein said electrode fingers are arranged without n to uniformity of **periodicity** in the direction of the wave propagation through said transducer.

(g) And even General Claim 23:

A SAW transducer having electrode fingers shaped in order to produce a SAW velocity dispersion effect.
...that assumed any **shaping** to achieve **purposely** the SAW velocity dispersion

SHIBOLETH, ISRAELI, ROBERTS, ZISMAN

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Re: US Pat. Appln. S/N 09/685,718

"METHOD UTILIZING THE SAW VELOCITY DISPERSION EFFECT FOR
WEIGHTING BY SHAPING THE ELECTRODE FINGERS...."

Our file: A-378-0 US

Dear Mr. Medley,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the subject matter with you, hopefully we can do this today by telephone at your time 9:00 AM.

I have attached a Power of Attorney form signed by the inventor, adding my name as attorney of record.

I have also attached a proposed new claim (31) and a table of comparison between the prior art and the present invention.


Please review these materials so that we can discuss them today or another convenient time.

A significant point to keep in mind was stated in the earlier response filed by the previous attorney on Jan. 4, 2002. This refers to the fact that the Yatsuda reference does not relate to interdigital transducers nor to the weighting of IDTs. In general, the prior art discloses fingers which are arranged and tapered to compensate for and reduce the effects of velocity dispersion. As he stated in that response, "In stark contrast to the prior art, the finger shaping called for by the present invention is provided for precisely the opposite reason, i.e. in order to induce the velocity dispersion effect, thereby weighting the transducer itself and/or focusing the propagated SAW beam."

It is believed that new claim 31 presents language defining over the prior art with regard to the variable ratio inducing SAW velocity dispersion, to provide a weighting mechanism to control weighting coefficients for achieving desired frequency characteristics of the IDT.

Looking forward to discussing this matter with you.

Sincerely,


Edward Langer, Pat. Atty
Registration No. 30,564